



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
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Prime Minister

The Rt Hon Francis Pym MC MP
Lord President of the Council
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1

MP 30/11
23 December 1981

Joe Lewis

ML

TRANSPORT (NO 2) BILL

The package of measures announced in my White Paper on Lorries, People and the Environment includes a commitment to strengthen the powers of the road haulage licensing authorities to enable them to take adequately into account environmental considerations in dealing with licence applications from road haulage operators. This would require primary legislation, and the White Paper says that the Government will seek an early opportunity to introduce it.

Back in the summer Norman Fowler had taken the view that there was not going to be room for this in either of the two Transport Bills envisaged for this session. As there was policy approval from the original discussion in E the subject was included in the Government's list for possible Private Members' Bills, but unfortunately there was no taker.

I am anxious to do all I can to strengthen the Government's hand for the full debate we have promised on the White Paper and the crucial vote on the amending regulations on lorry weights in the spring. The delay in bringing forward the

Transport (No 2) Bill provides the opportunity for acting to show that the Government means business on this particular environmental measure in our White Paper package, and I should like to add a single clause for this purpose. Instructions are ready and I understand the clause would be straightforward to draft.

Tightening up control on lorry operating centres would be popular on both sides of the House. And it is not likely to be opposed by the road haulage industry itself because the measure will affect mainly those small hauliers who tend to damage the industry's image by operating from totally unsuitable bases in backyards or actually on the street.

I would therefore be grateful for your agreement, subject of course to the drafting of this clause not holding up introduction of the Bill, to the inclusion of this measure. If it was likely to delay introduction then I would hope you could agree to introducing this item at a later stage.

I am copying this to colleagues on E and L Committees, to First Parliamentary Counsel and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours
cc

Daw

DAVID HOWELL

30 DEC 1987

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Transport
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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

12 January 1982

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MP

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 23 December about the inclusion in the Transport (No 2) Bill of provisions to enable licensing authorities to take environmental considerations into account in dealing with applications from road haulage operators.

The Transport (No 2) Bill is already well behind the timetable which we had originally envisaged, and Legislation Committee will need to satisfy itself that it does not contain anything which could avoidably delay its passage further. Subject to that, and to the views of our other colleagues, I would have no objection to including the provisions you have in mind, provided that they could be drafted in time to be part of the Bill as introduced without holding up its preparation. However I would not wish to see these provisions added to the Bill during its passage unless it were decided that this was absolutely essential.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

John [unclear]
Francis

FRANCIS PYM

The Rt Hon David Howell MP
Secretary of State for Transport
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3EB

12 JAN 1982

